

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of January 22 - January 26, 2007**

1. **Ward 5 Election Tuesday:** The special election to fill the Ward 5 City Council seat will be held, Tuesday, January 30 in the lobby of Columbia Union College's Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Avenue. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. Profiles of the candidates, a sample ballot and instructions for voting are on the City's web page, [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). For more information, contact City Clerk Jessie Carpenter at [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org) or call 301-891-7267. (*City Clerk*)
2. **Streetlights in Ward 1:** Carroll Avenue streetlights were activated as of 1/25/07 in the 7100 block of Carroll Avenue. (*Public Works*)
3. **Electronics Recycling Event (Citywide):** This is scheduled for April 21, 2007. The event will be similar to other annual drop-off events. A contractor will accept computer components and other electronics for recycling and proper disposal. The event will be held from 10:00am to 1:30pm in the Library parking area. Details of the event will be posted on the City's webpage and in the Newsletter. (*Public Works*)
4. **Save the Date - Public Workshops on Gym:** Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11 are the dates set for two identical free community workshops regarding the proposed gymnasium addition to the Takoma Park Community Center. The workshops will be held from 2:30 - 4:30pm. The Saturday workshop will be at Grace United Methodist Church on New Hampshire Avenue and the Sunday workshop will be at the Takoma Park Community Center. The Sunday session will include a track in Spanish. Information on this important event will be mailed to each household in Takoma Park. We want to know what you think! For information as it becomes available, check the City's web site at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). (*Community & Government Liaison*)
5. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 4):** The members of the Hilltop Tenants Association (7716-7720 Maple Avenue) met this week with community organizers, Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo to continue discussion of their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law. The group was recently notified that their rental property is being sold. Last week, the tenants registered their association with the City. At this week's meeting, the members decided to submit a letter of interest to purchase the property to owner, Adventist HealthCare, Inc. The tenants will continue to explore all options available to them under the law. (*Housing and Community Development*)
6. **First-Time Home Buyer Class (Spanish) To Be Offered (City-wide):** The Latino Economic Development Corporation will be sponsoring a First-Time Home Buyer class in Spanish on April 14th, from 8:30am - 1:30pm at the Takoma Park Community Center. If you are thinking about purchasing a home, now is a good time to find out more about the process, the various loan opportunities available from the State of Maryland and Montgomery County, and how to protect yourself from scams. The class will be conducted in English on May 19th. To register or for further information, contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**7. Erie/Flower Commercial Area Master Plan Workshop (Ward 5):** The first Workshop to review the Master Plan and identify small scale improvements will be held February 22nd in the Columbia Room of Wilkinson Hall at Columbia Union College. Neighborhood residents, businesses and other area stakeholders are invited. The workshop will review the vision and recommendations of the 2000 Master Plan for the Erie/Flower Avenue Commercial area and work with participants to identify and prioritize small scale projects for the neighborhood commercial area. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner, at (301) 891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**8. Green Building Conference (City-wide):** Housing and Community Development is offering a Go Green at Home Takoma Park Green Building Conference for homeowners and contractors to learn and share information about green building. The conference will be on February 18th from 11 AM to 5 PM. John Spears of Sustainable Design Group, Inc. will be the keynote speaker at 11 AM. There are over twenty additional speakers to choose from and many more topics on subjects ranging from landscaping to finishes. Registration is \$5, with an optional \$10 for lunch (only for registration prior to Feb. 12) through the Recreation Department. For more information, go to "Upcoming Events" at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or call Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting (City wide):** Housing and Community Development staff member Ilona Blanchard attended the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting to learn about new findings and studies in pedestrian safety, walkable communities, transit oriented development, and transit services. The meeting gathers researchers, agency professionals, and consultants from all over the world to learn about and discuss a wide range of issues related to transportation planning and implementation. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**10. Officers in Meetings:** On January 24th, Capt. Coursey along with City Manager Barb Matthews, and the CSAFE staff (Mary Kendall and Gretchen Hilburger), attended the CSAFE Oversight Committee Meeting. This week Capt. Coursey also attended the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting along with Wayne Hobbs and Venita George. *(Police)*

**11. Officers in Training:** On January 24th, Pvt. Walter Smith, Keith Hubley, Ms. Gretchen Hilburger, Demetrice White and Dispatcher Christopher Walker attended the Local Government Insurance Trust Defensive Driving Seminar in Columbia, MD. On January 25th, Sgt. Richard Skibicki attended Supervisory Liabilities training sponsored by the Maryland Police Training Commission along with the Community College of Baltimore in Essex, MD. On January 26th, Lt. Cipperly attended Managing Employee and Conflict at Work training also sponsored by the Maryland Police Training Commission in Essex, MD. *(Police)*

12. **Vehicle Enforcement (Wards 1, 4 & 5):** Officers conducted at least 93 traffic stops this week, 76 of which ended in written citations and 2 vehicle impounds. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire, Flower and Philadelphia Avenues. (*Police*)

13. **City Website:** Many updates to the website this week, including much information regarding the Special Election on January 30. (*CityTV*)

14. **February Newsletter:** The process with the new Newsletter designer went very smoothly. The Newsletter will be delivered to the post office and City Hall today, and will be posted to the website by the end of the day. (*CityTV*)

15. **Granicus:** There have been a number of technical problems with the uploading of the Council meeting from January 22, and technical experts on staff and at the vendor are troubleshooting a variety of issues, including bandwidth. We hope to have this resolved soon. (*CityTV*)

16. **What's on City TV?:** New tapes released this week include *Street Festival 2006: The Natty Beaux + The Turner Brothers*, and *Folk Festival #15: A Bunch of Ballads*. (*CityTV*)